According to Unit Trust of India (UTI), US-64 is an open-ended scheme and UTI honours repurchase requests of all unit-holders. During the period October 1, 1998 to November 27, 1998 the repurchases aggregated to Rs. 3508 crore. The repurchase amount which was Rs. 2385 crore for October, 1998 came down to almost half in November, 1998 at Rs. 1123 crore.

(d) The Chairman, UTI has written an open letter to all unit-holders explaining the facts of US-64. UTI has also constituted a high level committee under the chairmanship of Shri Deepak Parekh to make suggestions for further strengthening the US-64.

Functioning of Nationalised Banks in Rural Areas

205. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of poor services of nationalised Banks including their causal attitude towards customers in rural areas;

(b) whether any steps have been taken by Government to improve functioning of nationalised Banks in rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) In the context of occasional complaints regarding indifferent service by some branches of public sector banks including branches in rural areas, Government have been impressing on the managements of banks to improve customer service. Improvement of customer service is an ongoing process to which the Government/Reservse Bank of India and the top management of public sector banks give continuing attention. Recognising that indifferent service is often caused by problems of attitude, the banks have included, in the course content of different training course, capsules relating to the need for changing attitudes of bank employees to the customers of banks in order to ensure the improvement in customer service.

Earmarking of Budget for North-Eastern States

206. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to earmark 10 per cent of the budget of Central Ministries for the North East;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) in what manner the Central Government proposes to distribute this amount amongst the North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The Government of India have decided to create a Central Pool of Resources for the North East (and Sikkim) by utilising unspent amount(s) out of 10% of the budgets of the concerned Central Ministries/Departments earmarked for these States. The funds available in the Central Pool are meant to be utilised for meeting the requirements of specific projects in the North East and Sikkim for speedier development of the Region.

Long term foreign Capital Investment in the Country

207. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total volume of long term foreign capital actually invested in the country in each of the years since 1991-92;

(b) the proportion of this aggregate investment going to the services and the luxury consumption sectors; and